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***Amendments to the claims, showing changes:***

1. (Previously Canceled)
2. (Previously Amended) The feminine hygiene article of claim 16, comprising a soft material that is substantially non-irritating to human skin and membranes in the genital area.
3. (Original) The article of claim 2, wherein said material is selected from bonded fabrics, woven fabrics, cellulose, paper, and combinations thereof.
4. (Original) The article of claim 2 wherein said article comprises a plurality of layers of said material.
5. (Previously Amended) The article of claim 16, wherein said article comprises at least one folded layer.
6. (Previously Amended) The article of claim 16, wherein said article comprises at least one layer and is rolled into an elongated coil.
7. (Original) The article of claim 6, wherein said coil is twisted or creased at a position between said front and back ends.
8. (Previously Amended) The article of claim 16, wherein said article has a length between about 6 inches and about 10 inches.
9. (Previously Amended) The article of claim 16, wherein said article has a width less than about 1.5 inches.
10. (Previously Amended) The article of claim 16, wherein said article has a height between about 0.5 inches and about 1.5 inches.
11. (Previously Amended) The article of claim 16, wherein said article is flexible and can conform to the shape of the body area where it is used.

12. (Previously Amended) The article of claim 16, comprising a material that can be flushed into a sewer system.

13. (Previously Amended) The article of claim 16, comprising a material that is biodegradable.

14. (Previously Canceled)

15. (Previously Amended) The kit of claim 17, wherein said absorbent article is selected from panty liners, mini-pads, maxi-pads, and sanitary napkins.

16. (Currently Amended) A feminine hygiene article for absorption of bodily fluids, comprising:

an elongated absorbent article having a front end, a back end, a length between said front and back ends sufficient to extend from a point between the user's buttocks to a point beyond the user's urogenital area;

wherein said back end is formed for retention by and between a user's buttocks while said front end extends forward between the user's legs and beyond the user's urogenital area, said back end has a height less than about 2 inches and a width sufficiently small to fit between the user's buttocks and legs without causing significant discomfort, and said front end does not include an intravaginal portion.

17. (Currently Amended) A feminine hygiene kit, comprising:

an elongated absorbent article having a front end, a back end, a length between said front and back ends sufficient to extend from a point between the user's buttocks to a point

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beyond the user's urogenital area, wherein said back end is formed for retention by and between a user's buttocks while said front end extends forward between the user's legs and beyond the user's urogenital area, said back end has a height less than about 2 inches and a width sufficiently small to fit between the user's buttocks and legs without causing significant discomfort, and said front end does not include an intravaginal portion; and

an absorbent pad held in placed between the user's panties and her urogenital area.